Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1, 7, 12 and 17 have been amended. Claims 18 and 23 have been previously

cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-17 and 19-22 are presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-17 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable

over Michels et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,161,144). Applicants submit that the present claims

are patentable over Michels.

Michels discloses a switching device for forwarding network traffic to a desired

destination on a network. The switching device includes multiple ports and uses a lookup

table to determine which port to forward network traffic over. (Abstract). Michels further

discloses that the switching device includes multiple search engines that can perform

multiple binary searches simultaneously. (Col. 2, ll. 60-63). The search engines can send

network frames in any desired format and a media interface reformats the frames for the

network. (Col.. 4, ll. 59-60).

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

> An apparatus comprising:
> a parser to receive a packet and to generate a packet
> search request;
> a plurality of search resources, each search resource
> to determine a search response based on the packet
> search request;
> a switch to receive the packet search request from
> the parser and to multicast the packet search request to
> the plurality of search resources; and
> a session storage device coupled to the switch to
> allow a session to be maintained across multiple
> packets.

Applicant submits that Michels does not disclose or suggest a session storage device coupled to the switch to enable the switch to allow a session to be maintained across multiple packets. The system in Michels evaluates the destination of a packet on a per packet basis. In contrast, claim 1 includes *a switch to allow a session to be maintained across multiple packets*. Nowhere in Michels is there disclosed or suggested *a switch to allow a session to be maintained across multiple packets*. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Michels.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and include additional limitations. Therefore, claims 2-6 are also patentable over Michels.

Independent claims 7, 12 and 17 also recite, in part, a session storage device coupled to the switch to enable the switch to allow a session to be maintained across multiple packets. As discussed above, Michels does not disclose or suggest such a feature. Therefore, claims 7, 12 and 17 are also patentable over Michels for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Claims 8-11 depend from claim 7, claims 13-16 depend from claim 12, and claims 19-22 depend from claim 17. As dependent claims necessarily include the limitations of their independent claims, claims 8-11, 13-16 and 19-22 are also patentable over Michels.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.
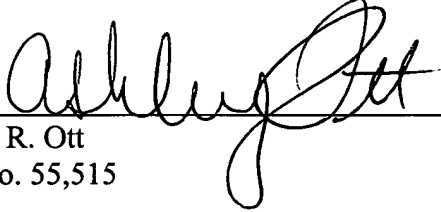
Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: September 23, 2005

Ashley R. Ott
Reg. No. 55,515

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(303) 740-1980